

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [007] with the following amended paragraph:

[007] For example, one such distributed system may include reader devices using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, services that receive and process identification data from the reader devices, and applications that store and manage the processed data. Although RFID technology is well known, conventional RFID systems do not operate satisfactorily in a distributed system, where network changes, such as the failure of a computer resource or the introduction of a new resource, are common. It is therefore desirable to provide RFID systems that operate[[s]] in a distributed, robust, reliable, scalable manner.

Please replace paragraph [029] with the following amended paragraph:

[029] The following description of embodiments of this invention refers to the accompanying drawings. Where appropriate, the same reference numbers in different drawings refer to the same or similar elements.

[[C]]A. Introduction